

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/701,794

Examiner

George Eng

Applicant(s)

TRINCA, ROBERTO

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 32,33 and 36-38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


GEORGE ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 32-33 and 36-38 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to a process for conducting and managing a videoconference among a plurality of user locations, which renders signal compatible to equipment at different locations and enable director to select an present one speaker at a time (i.e., providing a centralized interpretation service discriminating on audio supplied by users, wherein audio-video signals originating at remote participant's locations are received in a centralized direction room, selecting one of the audio-video signals by using a selection device and necessary audio-video effects and contribution are added to the selected audio-video signal at the centralized direction room in order to transmit to different locations).

Applicant's independent claim 32 recites, *inter alia*, a process for carrying out and managing a videoconference among a plurality of user locations with a structure as defined in the specification (pages 5-15) including the steps of converting the audiovisual signals from their respective signal formats to at least one transmission signal format before transmission of the audiovisual signals to the direction room and then transmitting the audiovisual signals from the user locations to the direction room using the at least one transmission signal format, prior to using the audiovisual signals at the direction room, converting all of the received audiovisual signals into common audio video format, selecting the audiovisual in the common audio video format send the user signals locations employing an input audio video matrix at the direction

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room, adding further information in the common audio video format to the selected audiovisual signals form complete outgoing signals in the common audio video format, and converting the complete outgoing signals from the common audio video format to the at least one transmission signal format before transmission of the user locations and then complete outgoing signals to transmitting the complete outgoing signals from the direction room to the user locations using the at least one transmission signal format, wherein the selecting step selects a first complete outgoing signal to a speaker at a videoconference and selects a second complete outgoing signal different from the first complete outgoing signal for videoconference attendees other than the speaker, and wherein the speaker receives an overview of the attendees by employment of a selection device that selects one or more signals from among the user locations and routes the selected signals through the input audio video matrix for delivery to the speaker. These steps, in combination of the remaining steps, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant's claims are allowed for these reasons and the reasons recited in the Amendments filed 10/16/2003 and 7/19/2004.

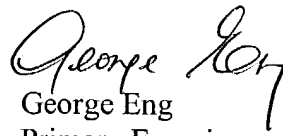
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 7:30 AM-6:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz can be reached on 703-305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


George Eng
Primary Examiner
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